

Andrew Jackson to William S. Fulton, January 23, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO WILLIAM S. FULTON.¹

¹ Draft. William S. Fulton was private secretary to Jackson during the Seminole campaign of 1818. Jackson appointed him secretary of Arkansas Territory in 1829 and governor in 1835. He served as senator from Arkansas 1836–1844.

Hermitage, January 23, 1838.

My dear sir, Having seen in the Globe, under the proceedings of Congress of January 5th 1838 in the House of Representatives the following amendment proposed by Mr. Adams, to the resolution reported by Mr Howard chairman of the Committee of Foreign relations, "Mr. Adams moved to amend the resolution," by adding, "and also copies of all instructions to the officers of the Government of the united states and all correspondence with them, with the Government and officers of Mexico and of great Britain concerning the preservation of the neutrality of the united states in the civil wars and insurrections in Mexico, and in any of the British provinces north of the United States, since the year 1829, and particularly of a letter from the late President of the United States to the Secretary of the Territory of arkansa dated on or about the 10th of December 1830." It appears that Mr. Adams is very solicitous to get a copy of my letters to you and as I wish him gratified you will confer an obligation on me by furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of all letters from me to you, official, or unofficial, confidential, or otherwise, with your answers and report with regard to the object of any and every enquiry and investigation submitted to you as Secretary of the Territory of arkansa or as acting Governor about the 10th of December 1830, or at any other time touching the affairs of

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Texas and Mexico. By referring to the war Department you will find a letter addressed to Govr. Pope on the subject of Genl Houstons declarations about his intention of conquoring Texas or Mexico, as communicated by a letter from Dr. Marable to Genl Duff Green and by him communicated to me, and by me on the 21st of May 1829, made the subject of instructions to the Secretary of war to write Govr. Pope, and inclose him an extract of said letter and instruct him to make enquiry into this matter, and if such illegal project should be discovered to exist to adopt prompt measures to put it down and to give to the Government the earliest information of the existence of such contemplated illegal enterprise with the names of all those who may be concerned therein. This letter with your reply as acting governor of arkansa, in the absence of Governor Pope, will be found on file, as I suppose, in the war Depart. if not, the records of the Executive Departments of the Territory of arkansa can be referred to and copies obtained.

Have the goodness to inform the House of representatives, that you are requested by me to furnish copies of all letters from the late President to you comming within the range of Mr. Adams amendment to the resolution of Col. Howard, and bearing date about the 10th of Decbr. 1830, with your replies to them. Your early attention to this request will lay me under obligations to you, as it will convince the people of the u. states of my vigilance in preserving a strict nutrality, and dispel the vile imputation intended to be cast up on me by that vindictive old man, Mr Adams, that I was capable of hypocracy and duplicity.

I am with great respect yours

P.S. It was conjectured at that time aluded to that Genl Houston intended to wield our Indian force in the enterprise suggested in Dr. Marables letter to Genl Duff Green, and the War Department charged with our Indian affairs was the proper Department to controle our Indians, thro the Governor of the Territories. therefore it is that you will find these letters in the War, and not in the State Dept.